

Church News.

FROM BLOOMERS, OHIO.

Our annual love feast services were observed as was announced for Monday evening, August 3. The weather was all that could be asked for, and it made our hearts beat with joy to see so many of our brethren and sisters seated at the tables partaking of the meal, commemorating the last supper of our Lord. Several of our members could not be present on account of sickness. Spectators filled the house to an overflow, yet the best of order was maintained, and all felt that we had one of the most impressive services ever held at Bloomers. Brother Summers and a number of his members from Pleasant Hill were with us, which only added to our joy. These feasts afford great opportunities for doing good as well as for enjoyment. Here we meet loved ones, and form new acquaintances, long to be remembered, or never to be forgotten. Under such preaching of the Word as Brethren Keifer and Summers did, the fire of love is formed into a brighter flame. By such the association of the band of union is strengthened, and by the faithful observance of the ordinances of the Lord's house we are revived and renewed in the inner life. Not only are our hearts cheered but our souls are blessed, for the Lord says, "If ye love me keep my commandments." We are taught in the first and great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," for love is fulfilling of the law. To love him because he is our creator, protector and preserver. Then he says, "if ye love me keep my commandments." The commandments of God as delivered unto his apostles which have been handed down from posterity to posterity, until they have reached the followers of Christ in this present age which throws them into the same relation with Christ concerning the keeping of the commandments as were the apostles in our Savior's time. We are commanded to be baptized for the remission of sins, to wash one another's feet, as our Lord and Master did, to show our humility, our desire to be humble, and our willingness to comply with the commands of Christ, and to eat of the great supper instituted by him, and partake of the loaf and cup of which he said, "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." On Sunday evening our dear Brother Keifer preached a preparatory sermon on the Cross and crucifixion until our hearts were almost melted, and everything contrary to the Lord was eradicated and our hearts filled with love for him who suf-

fered and died the ignominious death upon the cross, that we might have eternal life, and for that cause we were ready to receive the blessing and enjoy the love feast to such a great extent.

MRS. QUINDORA GRUBB.

FROM RIPON, CALIFORNIA.

On the 19 of this month at 11 o'clock A. M. was brother S. J. Harrison's last sermon at Ripon, thus ending his year's labor with the Lathrop church. While the time has passed quickly by he has left a host of friends behind.

"Blessed be the tie that binds."

CONCENTRATION OF MEMBERS.

Year after year we hear of members coming to different parts of California, some for health, some for pleasure, some for business pursuits, and almost all seeking for a home in our "sunny" climate, leaving their churches and finally settle down in some isolated spot at some secular business and become inactive members in church work and lost to their churches. Why is this? Why not come to where there is an organized church and help keep up the good work of the Master.

I have been living in San Joaquin valley ever since December 1869 and have seen considerable of California and am satisfied with this locality. And congenial enough to invite others in also. As the good old Brother Ditzworth, from Lanark, Ill., said when he was here with Brother Rowland, "You have plenty of room for lots of people."

COLONIZING.

There has been considerable talk about a Brethren colony in the vicinity of Ripon and Lathrop. Although the projectors, Brethren Harrison and Lichty, have gone east, to some it may seem like the colony business had come to a stand still, but we believe otherwise. The land is here, the climate is here, and all the advantages that are essential to a settlement with the exception of two things, "hard cash" and "water" (for irrigating.) The latter is within six or seven miles of here, and would have been down this summer but the company funds gave out, so the work on the Ripon Lateral was suspended until after harvest, when it is expected that the work will go on.

The same land that was offered for sale at \$20 and \$40 per acre was sown in barley and wheat and yielded 8 to 14 sacks per acre and their average weight is 135 lbs. One tract of 360 acres of this land joining our home is the \$40 land all under fence; with 40 acres in alfalfa and has been cut twice yielding about 1½ tons

per cutting per acre. We pronounce this land number one for fruit and alfalfa, which the following table of fruit and their measurement in circumference will show and grown this year.

DATE	VARIETIES	SIZE IN.
1896		
June 21,	Apricots, Moorpark,	7½
" "	" Royal,	6½
" 23,	Apples, Early Harvest,	9½
" "	" Alexander,	10¼
" "	" Red June,	8¼
July 16,	" Maiden Blush,	10½
" 20,	" Transcendent Crab,	6¾
" 23,	" R. I. Greening,	10
" 23,	" Fall Pippin,	
	(not done growing)	10½
" 16,	Peach, Early Crawford,	10
" 16,	" Chinese Cling,	9
" 20,	" Nectarine,	7½
" 25,	Pear, Clapp's Favorite,	10¾
" 25,	" Bartlet,	
	(not done growing)	9¾

Brother H. M. Lichty has made a thorough investigation of our soil and understands its composition and therefore its adaptability. We assisted him in some of his examinations, and can say he is a very close observer. Therefore we expect a general report from him in the near future and his presence again in the coming spring. We are glad to state that we are to have an addition to our Sunday-school this coming winter, as brother E. E. Metzger will teach our school next term, thus "concentration" begins.

B. G. FREDERICK.

FROM HARRISONBURG, VA.

As I have not had anything to say of special interest for some time through your columns, I come to you again asking for a little space. Whilst we have not had much to say by pen we are not sleeping away our precious hours, but busily working for the Master. We do not write this time to be made prominent, but simply hoping to do good which should be the motive of every writer or speaker. Sometimes we are made to think that for popularity's sake we do nearly all. To obtain a big name and be looked up to as a great "I Am" is the height of the ambition of many individuals. May God forbid and watch over the writers of the EVANGELIST that her columns may never be stained with impure motives, but hold up the principles of the Brethren Church through the power of the Spirit—aiming to get entirely rid of self. We then keep her pages clean and make her a power for good.

Now, in telling of my months' visit to Pittsburg, Pa., I do not wish to make the church there vain, but that other church-